



tion. Said State Department Spokesman Charles Redman: "We need now to get on with the resolution of the larger issues affecting U.S.-Soviet relations."

Gorbachev took care not to torpedo the largest of those issues, arms reduction, at the end of what was otherwise an almost contemptuous TV speech. Among other things, the Soviet leader assailed the Reagan Administration for spreading "half-truths" about the deal that had almost been reached at the Iceland summit and attacked Reagan for being unable to control an "entourage which literally breathes hatred for the Soviet Union." But Gorbachev wound up by saying that all his proposals made at the Iceland summit for drastic cuts in nuclear arms "still stand."

The White House chose to ignore Gorbachev's barbs and focus on the pledge of

continued arms negotiations. "The speech was long on rhetoric, short on policy, which was probably positive," said a senior U.S. official. Reagan even called the speech "heartening." That is quite a stretch: Gorbachev still insisted that all arms reductions are contingent on restrictions on the Strategic Defense Initiative that Reagan will not accept. Said Gorbachev: "No package, no concessions."

On the U.S. side, the current push is to "translate" the sweeping generalities of the Iceland summit into detailed proposals to be presented by American negotiators at arms-control talks in Geneva. The job is proving to be slow going. Reagan and Gorbachev cannot even agree on what they almost agreed on in Reykjavik: Gorbachev contends that Reagan accepted the elimination of all nuclear weapons

in ten years. Indeed, verbatim notes from the meeting show the President replied, "Suits me fine." The White House, however, insists he was talking about an "ultimate goal" and formally proposed only to get rid of all ballistic missiles. In either case, both the American military and U.S. allies have qualms about how they could then counter the substantial Soviet superiority in conventional arms. But detailed negotiating instructions must be drafted before Shultz meets Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Vienna next week. With the expulsion war apparently in a stalemate, the two statesmen may be able to talk about missiles, warheads and bombs rather than diplomats, spies and maids.

—By George J. Church.

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